

TOW LAW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORTFOR 1948

9th August, 1950.

AREA

The area of the Urban District is 477 acres.

POPULATION

3210

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

941

RATEABLE VALUE

£9,075, and a penny rate produces £35. 0. 10d.

OFFICIALS

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. A. Charlton, Grove Lodge Tow Law, Part-time, on a temporary basis.

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G. Rowe, Part-time, by arrangement with Lanchester Rural District Council.

Tuberculosis Medical Officer, Venereal Diseases Medical Officer, School Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer, Obstetric Consultants, Veterinary Surgeon, Public Analyst, Health Visitor, etc., are under Durham County Council.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Employment has remained good during the year. Coal mining has been active, although it is a pity that this employment is chiefly available at collieries outside the Urban Area. Female labour is absorbed at clothing factories in Crook some 4 miles away and at West Auckland some 10 miles distant, with the consequent disadvantages of transport. A small factory for female workers would be beneficial to the town.

Further employment is afforded on a small scale by four small engineering projects, as well as by the usual general activities of a small town. Generally speaking, a need exists for lighter industries to absorb labour which at present is tending to be dispersed at a distance from the Urban area.

VITAL STATISTICS

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate	35	25
	Illegitimate	3	1
		38	26
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Live Birth Rate per 1000 - Estimated Resident Population

19.9

Live Birth Rate per 1000 - England and Wales

17.9

<u>Still Births</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	Legitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>
		<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1000 population

0.93

Total (Live and Still) Births per 1000 population

20.8

DEATHS

Deaths in infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>
Illegitimate	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 live births

15.6

Death Rate

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Causes	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>28</u>

Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population

8.7

Death Rate per 1000 England and Wales

10.8

Classification of Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—
Cancer	—	5
Intracranial vascular disease	1	2
Heart Disease	9	—
Other circulatory disease	2	—
Bronchitis	1	1
Pneumonia	1	—
Other respiratory diseases	1	—
Infantile causes	1	—
All other causes	<u>—</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>

Total 28

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

Scarlet Fever	13
Diphtheria	2

CLASSIFICATION OF CASES OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Scarlet Fever	13
Measles	121
Pneumonia	5
Diphtheria	2
Erysipelas	1

Tuberculosis	
Non-pulmonary	3
Pulmonary	1
Whooping Cough	1

Deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)

Nil

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological examinations of Sputum, Throat swabs and Blood for the Diagnosis of Tuberculosis, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever are carried out at the Government Public Health Laboratories, Ponteland Road, Newcastle on Tyne. Facilities exist for any other laboratory investigation.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Up to the 5th July, 1940, an Ambulance was made available by the Tow Law Ambulance Association maintained by public subscription. After the above date a service was initiated under the National Health Service with its control centred in Bishop Auckland.

NURSING IN THE HOME

General nursing is carried out by a Nurse resident in Tow Law.

Maternity Nursing is catered for by a resident midwife.

TREATMENT CENTRES

A Child Welfare and Maternity Centre operates in Tow Law at fortnightly intervals.

A venereal disease clinic at Durham County Hospital and a Tuberculosis Clinic at Bishop Auckland under the auspices of the Durham County Council provide adequate facilities for those diseases.

GENERAL HOSPITAL FACILITIES

General Hospital facilities exist at Newcastle on Tyne, Durham and Bishop Auckland. Certain eye cases are treated at the Sunderland Eye Infirmary.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Durham County Water Board. From a bacteriological point of view the quality has been satisfactory. Some complaints in relation to the presence of foreign matter have been referred to the Board for action if possible. Old service pipes may play a part as a result of corrosion and may possibly be the cause of certain cases of poor pressure taken into conjunction with the altitude (1000 feet). All houses in the area are provided with a piped supply.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

No important alterations have been effected in relation to Sewerage and drainage.

There are no rivers or important streams in the Urban area.

No action has been necessary in relation to Smoke abatement.

No slaughtering is done in the district.

The bakehouses are clean and satisfactory.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

From the 5th July, 1948, records from various sources have been sent to the Durham County Council and it is not possible to state the state of Immunisation in the area at 31/12/48.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Inspections etc., Structural Defects

<u>Properties Inspected</u>	<u>Informal Written Notices</u>	<u>No. of Nuisances abated after Noti</u>
Dwelling Houses and Schools.	18	
Dairies and Milkshops	1	1
Cowsheds	4	
Ashpits and Privies	37	
Pigsties	1	1
	61	2

11 WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS

Seizures of unwholesome food - 4

111 PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Houses disinfected - 6

GENERAL

Number of new houses erected during year	37
Number of new houses occupied during year	37
Number of Ash closets converted into water closets	12
Total number of water closets in district	228
Total number of ash closets in district.	617
Total number of ash pit privies.	---

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

A. CHARLTON

M.B.B.S.